



Unity Wind Ltd

The Flint House, Felbrigg Road, Roughton, NR11 8PA

Telephone: 01263 761471

Email: info@UnityWind.com

Community Wind Turbines at North Walsham, North Norfolk

Unity Wind Limited was set up as a not for profit Industrial & Provident Society (I&PS) by local volunteers, to run community wind farms in North Norfolk.

Its first project is two community owned turbines at North Walsham, which we hope will become a model for others and will change attitudes to wind power. Previous attempts to put up commercial turbines has met with public hostility. People have felt the turbines were being imposed on them, while the benefits were going to outsiders.

With a community wind farm, the scale of the project is in the control of local people and a large proportion of the profits comes back to them, partly through shareholding/membership and the democratic structure of an I&PS. A low minimum share of £1 gives everyone the chance of membership. Every member has one vote, irrespective of their investment. Partly through the particular rules chosen for Unity Wind Ltd, which state that some of the profits fund other clean energy and energy saving projects in the area.

Getting planning permission for turbines is difficult and expensive. As an I&PS we can apply for grants to cover the costs of the surveys needed. So far we have achieved an option and lease agreement and wind speed measurements. We are grateful to The Nature Save Trust for investing £7,500 to pay for the ecological survey. We are now in the process of raising money for three more surveys, visual impact, traffic and noise. Two others can be done by one of our directors who works in the industry.

In about eighteen months time we hope to be able to apply for planning permission. Once given, we will be able to raise money for the turbines and their installation through shareholding, with additional bank loans if necessary. Professional staff will be taken on to run the project and the company, while the volunteer directors will look for other potential sites. (We already have some in view.) In this way we hope our project will continue to increase the amount of renewable energy produced in North Norfolk as well as helping to save energy, empower local people and help the local economy.